DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 10, 2018

Present: Bill Noll, Joe Dickinson, Tom Elsner, Deacon Charles Koressel, Jim Voelker, Michele Donovan, Dan Donovan, Lori Adkins

Excused: Emily Thompson

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Noll at 1:00 PM in the Zachary Room at St. John the Baptist Church (Newburgh). He opened with a heart prayer.

He introduced a guest, Matt Frields, the chairman of the Owensboro DCCS.

The minutes of the meeting of March 4, 2018 were approved by proper motion and voice vote.

Financial Report: Deacon Charlie said there was no problem with the budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities: Chairman Noll noted that the Activities chair is vacant, and a new person is needed. Michele Donovan said the Catholic Center is reserved the first weekend in March 2019 (March 1-3) for the annual Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat. Deacon Charlie pointed out that he has been in touch with St. Meinrad in hopes of returning the retreat there, but as of yet he has not received an answer. Joe Dickinson handed out the final report on attendance by troops for the 2018 retreat. There were 49 scouts and 33 adults compared to 68 scouts and 35 adults the year before. Michele pointed out in going over the feedback from participants that placing some of the activities in the morning had been well-received. There were comments that the retreat should be more like a campout. This has been discussed in the past and originally the Retreat was a campout event. Because an extensive amount of program time was lost due to clean-up, troops doing their own cooking and also the potential for bad weather, it was decided to bring the program inside over thirty years ago. At St. Meinrad several of the troops slept outside on the porch of the gym. Troops are welcome to pitch tents to sleep at the Retreat if they chose.

Bill Noll said Cathy Egler is still willing to chair a Cub Scout Faith Day in 2018. Probably in November. We need to set a firm date soon and notify Packs before the Cub program gets started again when school starts.

Emblems: Lori Adkins said so far in 2018 there have been 16 Light of Christ, 9 Parvuli Dei, and 11 Ad Altare Dei emblems earned. Bill Noll said he is planning to do a Pope Pius XII class soon and welcomes all who might be interested. He also said he would like to receive applications for the adult emblems as early as possible. Deacon Charlie said that he was informed that the diocese is considering making it a requirement that to be registered as a Catholic unit, it must provide an opportunity for Scouts to work on youth emblems.

Membership: Jim Voelker reported that he encouraged the unit award, Pope Paul VI, at the recent council event—Ideal Year of Scouting. He pointed out that the requirements were changed beginning in 2017 to make it similar to the BSA Journey to Excellence (JTE). A link to the new requirements can be found on the DCCS website—www.evdccs.com. Jim also indicated there are two new protestant Cub Scout emblems.

Vocations: Bill also indicated that the Vocations chair is still vacant as Joe Keith is phasing out his involvement. This position is especially important to coordinate the St. Dominic Savio program.

Training (Catholic Leadership Development): Joe Dickinson said the written feedback from the four participants at the training during the Retreat was generally favorable with one saying it helped me “gain additional ways in which I can help scouts and myself grow in our faith lives.” The course will be offered again at the next retreat in March 2019.

Communications: Joe Dickinson reported that the website ([www.evdccs.com](http://www.evdccs.com)) is generally up-to-date. He is open to any suggestions for improvements or corrections. He added some pictures from the 2018 retreat. An article about the retreat with pictures was published in *The Message*.

Chapel Maintenance: Tom Elsner said he had been to Old Ben to clean up the chapel area, but when he returned to take down the gutters, he was not able to complete the work because of a swarm of mosquitoes. He will return later and try again. Plan is to remove the gutters and put rock where the water hits when coming off the roof.

OLD BUSINESS

No change in membership was noted.

Bill said our DCCS has received the Diocesan Quality Unit Award for 2017.

There was a discussion about he spiritual formation requirements for the diocesan adult emblem—the Bronze Pelican. The following wording was suggested and will be voted on at the next meeting: “Show evidence of personal spiritual development as well as involvement with the spiritual development of youth.” It was also suggested that the application show time served in the positions listed.

It was decided by proper motion and voice vote that the Bronze Pelican can be used for special recognition (waiving the normal requirements) of religious and civic leaders who have helped promote the goals of the DCCS as decided by the emblem committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Noll and Deacon Charlie reported on their recent discussion with Steve Dabrowski, (Diocesan Director, Youth and Young Adults Ministry), about the new policy (Family Scouting) of the Boy Scouts of America to allow girls in Cub Scouting this fall, and Boy Scouting in 2019, under certain conditions. Current diocesan policy is to accept this change, but it is up to each unit to make its own decision about including girls.

Bill said he had seen information about new BSA training for unit chaplains and chaplain’s aides. He asked if the we should review this document to determine if it would be applicable to our units and if revisions should be made to make it more valuable to Catholic Scouting.

Brief mention was made of a news item that circulated on the internet that condoms will be available at the next World Scout Jamboree to be held in the United States. Deacon Charlie had talked with John Harding, executive at the Buffalo Trace Council, who said that this has been a policy of the World Scout Organization but is not a policy of the Boy Scouts of America.

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 PM on September 9, 2018 at St. Philip Parish.

CHAPLAIN’S COMMENTS

Deacon Charlie thanked those in attendance for their work on the committee. He asked for the prayers and help of committee members to find people for the vacant positions.

At 3:05 he closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R. Dickinson, Jr.

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